

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 4 and 7-11 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An imaging apparatus comprising:
an image data generating unit which generates first image data;
an authentication data generating unit which generates first authentication data; and
an authentication unit which has (a) a first authentication mode where said authentication unit authenticates, using the first authentication data, whether ~~or not~~ the first image data has been altered, and (b) a second authentication mode where said authentication unit authenticates, using second authentication data generated by a second imaging apparatus, whether ~~or not~~ second image data generated by ~~a~~ the second imaging apparatus has been altered.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said authentication data generating unit generates the first authentication data using data unique to ~~said~~ the imaging apparatus.

4. (Currently Amended) The imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said authentication data generating unit generates the first authentication data using secret data held by ~~said~~ the imaging apparatus.

5. (Previously Presented) The imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said authentication data generating unit generates the first authentication data using a hash function.

6. (Previously Presented) The imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said authentication data generating unit generates the first authentication data using a common key cipher.

7. (Currently Amended) The imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said authentication unit authenticates, using data unique to the second imaging apparatus, whether ~~or~~ ~~not~~ the second image data generated by the second imaging apparatus has been altered.

8. (Currently Amended) The imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said authentication unit authenticates, using secret data held by ~~said~~ the imaging apparatus, whether ~~or~~ ~~not~~ the second image data generated by the second imaging apparatus has been altered.

9. (Currently Amended) The imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said authentication unit authenticates, using a hash function, whether ~~or~~ ~~not~~ the second image data generated by the second imaging apparatus has been altered.

10. (Currently Amended) The imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said authentication unit authenticates, using a common key cipher, whether ~~or~~ ~~not~~ the second image data generated by the second imaging apparatus has been altered.

11. (Currently Amended) The imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said imaging apparatus is ~~one of~~ a digital camera, digital video camera, ~~and~~ or scanner.

12-21. (Canceled)